

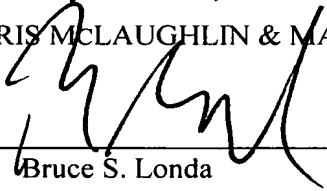
**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The claims have been revised to remove multiple dependencies and to place the claims in better form for substantive U.S. examination. No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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By

  
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**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail" in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below:

Date:

2/16/05

By

  
Tina M. Manor